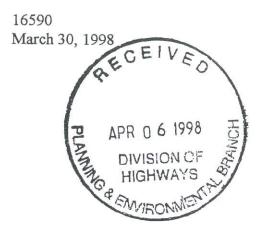
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Commander United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area 431 Crawford Street Portsmouth, Va. 23704-5004 Staff Symbol: Phone: (757)398-6587

H. Franklin Vick, PE
North Carolina Dept. of Transportation
N.C. Division of Highways
Planning and Environmental Branch
P.O. Box 25201
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Dear Mr. Vick:



This is in response to your letter dated February 23, 1998, requesting Coast Guard review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Havelock Bypass in Craven County, North Carolina.

The EA states there will be five stream crossings (pgs. 4-17), four on Slocum Creek and one on Tucker Creek. These waterways are subject to tidal influence, thus, they are considered legally navigable for Bridge Administration purposes. These creeks, at the bridge sites, also meet the criteria for advance approval waterways outlined in Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 115.70. Advance approval waterways are those that are navigable in law, but not actually navigated by other than small boats. The Commandant of the Coast Guard has given his advance approval to the construction of bridges across such waterways; therefore, an individual permit will not be required for any bridge in this project.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Terrance Knowles, at the phone number or address shown above.

Sincerely,

ANN B. DEATON

Chief, Bridge Administration Section

By direction of the Commander

Fifth Coast Guard District